

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Canceled)**

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Canceled)**

5. **(Currently amended)** A method of manufacturing ~~the~~ an automobile exhaust gas purifying combustion catalyst ~~according to claim 1, comprising a calcium salt, amorphous silica, and a copper compound,~~ comprising reacting a calcium silicate and a copper oxalate salt together with calcium silicate to produce the calcium salt, the amorphous silica and the copper compound.

6. **(Currently amended)** A method of manufacturing ~~the~~ an automobile exhaust gas purifying combustion catalyst ~~according to claim 2, comprising amorphous silica and a copper compound,~~ comprising reacting a calcium silicate and a copper oxalate salt together with calcium silicate to produce the amorphous silica and the copper compound, and washing the reaction product obtained with water, ~~or washing the reaction product obtained with water after carrying out acid treatment or treatment with an aqueous copper salt solution.~~

7. **(Currently amended)** A method of manufacturing ~~the~~ an automobile exhaust gas purifying combustion catalyst ~~according to claim 3, comprising (1) at least one of crystalline silica and amorphous silica, (2) a calcium salt, and (3) a copper oxide,~~ comprising reacting a calcium silicate and a copper oxalate salt together with calcium silicate to produce (1) at least one of crystalline silica and amorphous silica, (2) a calcium salt, and (3) a copper oxide, and baking the reaction product obtained.

8. **(Currently amended)** A method of manufacturing ~~the~~ an automobile exhaust gas purifying combustion catalyst ~~according to claim 4, comprising (1) at least one of crystalline silica and amorphous silica, and (2) a copper oxide,~~ comprising reacting a calcium silicate and a copper oxalate salt together with calcium silicate to produce (1) at least one of crystalline silica and amorphous silica, (2) a calcium salt, and (3) a copper oxide, washing the reaction product obtained with water, ~~or washing the reaction product obtained with water after carrying out acid treatment or treatment with an aqueous copper salt solution, and then further baking the reaction product obtained.~~

9. **(Currently amended)** A method of manufacturing ~~the~~ an automobile exhaust gas purifying combustion catalyst ~~according to claim 4,~~ comprising (1) at least one of crystalline silica and amorphous silica, and (2) a copper oxide, comprising reacting a calcium silicate and a copper oxalate salt together with calcium silicate to produce (1) at least one of crystalline silica and amorphous silica, (2) a calcium salt, and (3) a copper oxide, baking the reaction product obtained, and then further washing the reaction product obtained with water, or washing with water after carrying out acid treatment or treatment with an aqueous copper salt solution.

10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Currently amended)** An automobile exhaust gas purifying combustion catalyst ~~obtained~~ prepared by the method according to any one of claims 5 to 9.

12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(New)** The method of any one of claims 5-9, wherein the reacting step comprises a step selected from the group consisting of mixing the copper salt into an aqueous slurry of the calcium silicate, impregnating a solution of the copper salt into a molded body of the calcium silicate, and mixing a calcium silicate powder into a solution of the copper salt.

14. **(New)** The method of any one of claims 6, 8, or 9, further comprising treating the reaction product obtained with an acid or an aqueous copper salt solution prior to washing the reaction product obtained with water.